

passage of the historic progrowth, middle-class tax reform, the most significant tax reform in a generation. His accomplishments also include confirmation right here in the Senate of conservative judges to the Federal bench—hundreds and hundreds—including playing an instrumental role in the confirmation of Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Brett Kavanaugh, as well as, as I said, scores, if not hundreds, of district and circuit court judges.

One of Senator HATCH's particularly noteworthy achievements, among others, on the Judiciary Committee is the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, a bill he authored and cosponsored with the late Senator Ted Kennedy. It was landmark legislation allowing Americans to live, to work, and to worship in accordance with their beliefs.

Senator HATCH's reputation as a statesman and his record of fiscal responsibility even earned him the nickname "Mr. Balanced Budget" from President Reagan.

Senator HATCH is also widely known for his musical career and film appearances. He plays the violin, the piano, and the organ. Think of the talent this man has.

Senator HATCH and his wife, Elaine, have been married for more than 50 years. They have 6 children, 23 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren. Think of a lifetime achievement, and he has, I believe, many years left.

He will be truly missed here in the Senate, and I wish him all the best in the next chapter of his life.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FIRST STEP ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today is a good day for representative government, it is a good day for the taxpayers, and it is a good day for safe streets and strong families. It is also a good day to emphasize that many times Congress acts in a bipartisan way, and probably not enough so we get credit for it. But last night, one of these bipartisan pieces of legislation passed by a vote of 87 to 12. That happened when the Senate adopted the FIRST STEP Act.

Today, the House is expected to send it to the President, who is waiting with a pen in hand to enact once-in-a-generation criminal justice reform. I am confident that the President is ready to do that because I attended the news

conference about 5 weeks ago when he endorsed this legislation.

The FIRST STEP Act will help keep our streets safe, and it offers a fresh start to those who put in the work when they were in prison to get right with the law while paying their debt to society. It also addresses unfairness in prison sentencing and revises policies that have led to overcrowded prisons and, of course, ballooning taxpayer expenses.

Several decades ago, Congress passed well-intentioned laws imposing harsh mandatory sentences to stop the flow of drugs into our communities, and it happened that I voted for those laws, but they have also had some unintended consequences. Our prison population has exploded, and the taxpayers' burden to house inmates has followed suit. Today, taxpayers pay more than \$7 billion a year on our Federal prison population; however, despite that high cost, nearly half the inmates released today are rearrested.

As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the last 38 years, I consider myself—then and now—a law-and-order Republican. I am also a taxpayer watchdog, and I believe in the redemptive power of rehabilitation. So in 2015, I began to take a closer look at our prison and sentencing laws. We needed to make the system work better for the taxpayers, help law enforcement fight crime, and put a stopper in the revolving prison door. I was led to that effort by the efforts of Senator LEE and Senator DURBIN, who had been working on similar legislation for probably 3 to 4 years before my entry into this debate.

Several States across the country have developed these education, treatment, and training programs. The result has been a significant decline in recidivism. This means fewer crimes, fewer victims, and fewer tax dollars spent housing inmates.

The FIRST STEP Act is carefully crafted to provide opportunities at redemption for low-risk inmates, while ensuring that dangerous and career criminals stay behind bars. It does this through a multilayer system that filters out dangerous criminals and those likely to commit new crimes.

The bill rewards those who take personal responsibility for their mistakes and want to put in the time and effort to turn their lives around.

It improves fairness in sentencing while preserving important law enforcement tools.

It reduces some mandatory minimum sentences, but it also expands their application to include violent felons.

It grants judges additional discretion to sentence low-level, nonviolent offenders to less lengthy sentences as long as they fully cooperate with law enforcement. Finally, it eliminates the disparity in sentences for crack and powder cocaine offenses, which disproportionately impacts communities of color.

Passing these reforms has been a team effort years in the making. It

couldn't have been done without the stalwart commitment by a somewhat unlikely cadre of colleagues and advocates. We have had to compromise to make this possible, to seek to understand the other's points of view. In so doing, I think we made the bill better, and we accomplished something of historic significance that will reduce crime, make our system more just, and improve lives for generations to come.

Senators DURBIN and LEE, as I previously stated, were instrumental in this effort. Their interest in criminal justice reform dates back beyond my getting involved in it in 2014. The exact date, I don't know, but probably after Senators LEE and DURBIN joined hands, probably soon after Senator LEE came to the Senate. Their efforts inspired the Senate to take a fresh look at our sentencing and prison laws.

Senator GRAHAM, the incoming chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator CORNYN, and Senator WHITEHOUSE have also been with us since the very beginning of this effort.

Senators BOOKER and SCOTT both share a passion for criminal justice reform and have been vocal advocates, shining a light on the shortcomings and societal impact of our current system.

Credit is also due to our House colleagues—Chairman GOODLATTE, Ranking Member NADLER, and Congressmen COLLINS and JEFFRIES, who introduced the FIRST STEP Act in the House. And thanks to Speaker RYAN for his support and pledge to bring this to the House floor so quickly.

At every step along the way, we have stuck together. We pitched this bill to our colleagues and made changes based on their suggestions. We also relied on input and expertise from a variety of groups from across the political spectrum. In the end, this campaign earned the support of several top law enforcement and tough-on-crime champions, such as President Trump.

I think it is important to acknowledge the President's leadership on this issue. When he got involved, he closed the deal, and we got this done. He was helped in that effort by Jared Kushner. Early in President Trump's administration, I happened to be in the Oval Office of the new President. Jared Kushner was there, and we discussed taking up criminal justice reform. I just asked him if he was interested in it. I wanted to give him a phone call, so we had that phone call. He took the issue and ran with it and helped find a way forward to accomplish something previous administrations had tried and failed to do. Brooke Rollins and Ja'Ron Smith at the White House were also instrumental in this effort, working with Jared Kushner.

I would also like to thank the majority leader for staying true to his word and bringing this bill to the floor when we demonstrated the support for our effort that he demanded. In the end, I appreciated his vote for this bill.

Thanks also is due to the Senate floor staff on both sides of the aisle

who helped us successfully navigate the bill to final passage.

I want to thank my Senate staff, who helped make this possible. Bipartisan compromise is not for the faint of heart, and they have stayed true to the commitment that Senator DURBIN and I made to each other to move forward step-by-step in complete agreement about the path we should take and the path we had to take.

I would like to thank my Judiciary Committee staff director, Kolan Davis. Kolan's steady hand and sound judgment improves everything he is involved in. I value his counsel today, just as I have for the last 33 years.

By my side today is Aaron Cummings, my chief Constitution counsel and crime counsel. He led the effort to negotiate this bipartisan deal in my office and worked hard to see it through and to organize a vast coalition of support. Of course, he also worked closely with other committee staff members in that direction.

I would also like to thank Brian Simonsen for his diligent work on this important bill.

Our Department of Justice detailees to the Judiciary Committee, Tom Sullivan and Erin Creegan, provided very good technical advice.

My sincere thanks also goes to my talented communications team—Taylor Foy, Judiciary Committee communications director, and George Hartmann, Judiciary Committee press secretary, as well as Michael Zona—for their dedication to this effort and their successful campaign to educate and persuade so many to support this bill.

I am also thankful for my personal office staff, led by my chief of staff, Jill Kozeny. Jill has been my trusted adviser for over 30 years. She is leaving my staff, and I will be sad to see her go. She has been an exceptional leader, solving problems that I didn't even know I had, and she has done it all with matchless grace and what I like to call Iowa nice.

I am also grateful to Jennifer Heins, who keeps me on track and provides sound strategic advice.

Their contributions and those of every staffer who was part of this effort have been invaluable.

I would like to thank Senator DURBIN's staff, particularly his chief counsel, Joe Zogby, and his counsel, Rachel Rossi. Working with my staff, the White House, and others, they must have helped us close the deal more than a dozen times. That is an example—maybe it is 10 times; maybe it is 20 times. But closing deals many times is what it takes to get to the bipartisanship that it took to get 87 votes on this bill. Of course, in the end, their dedication—and that includes creativity and every effort they could put forth—got the job done.

I want to give particular thanks to the law enforcement groups whose support and input were key to the bill's success, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Associa-

tion of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National District Attorneys Association, the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, and Law Enforcement Leaders.

I am getting to the end. I would also like to thank the groups that made this effort possible. A diverse group and broad coalition of other groups, from the ACLU to the American Conservative Union, supported this bill. I can't list all the groups that offered their key support, but they include FreedomWorks, Justice Action Network, Americans for Tax Reform, Heritage Action, the Due Process Institute, Faith & Freedom Coalition, R Street, Right on Crime, Texas Public Policy Foundation, Prison Fellowship, and members of the Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition.

To treat everybody fairly, I ask unanimous consent that a complete list of support be printed for the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The Heritage Foundation; American Enterprise Institute; Right on Crime; Americans for Tax Reform; FreedomWorks; Independent Women's Forum; ALEC Action; Bridges to Life; Calvert Institute for Policy Research; American Conservative Union; Commonwealth Foundation; Faith and Freedom Coalition; The James Madison Institute; Florida Tax Watch; Pelican Institute; R Street Institute; Rio Grande Foundation; Texas Public Policy Foundation; Fraternal Order of Police.

International Association of Chiefs of Police; International Union of Police Association AFL-CIO; National District Attorney's Association; Sixty Sheriff's Letter—Led by Sheriff Hodgson of Bristol County, Maryland; National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration; Jackson County Sheriff's Department, Kansas; Rockingham County Sheriff's Department, North Carolina; Families Against Mandatory Minimums; Center for American Progress; Prison Fellowship; #cut50; Latinos for Tennessee; Bernice King; 2000 Faith Leaders Letter of Support; Brother Franklin Graham.

Pastor Paula White; Pastor Jentezen Franklin; Pastor Jack Graham; Alveda King; Pastor Darrell Scott; Rabbinical Alliance of America; Skvere Community; Young Israel; Satmar Community; Catholic Charities USA; The Kairos Group; Move the Earth Ministries; Aleph Institute; Christian Community Development Association; City Gate Network.

Council for Christian Colleges & Universities; National Association of Evangelicals; National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference; Kingdom Mission Society; National Latino Evangelical Coalition; Louisiana Family Forum; Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; American Bus Association; American Clergy Network; American Correctional Association; American Jail Association; Association of Prosecuting Attorneys; Association of State Corrections Administrators; Baltimore Ravens; Bread for the World.

CAN-DO Foundation; Circle of Protection; Citygate Network; Douglass Leadership Institute; Due Process Institute; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Flikshop; Friends Committee on National Legislation;

Institute for Prison Ministries; International Community of Corrections Associations; Fairness, Dignity & Respect for Crime Victims & Survivors; Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice; Just Detention; Justice and Serious Mental Illness; Lifted from the Rut.

National Conference of State Legislatures; National Criminal Justice Association; National Governors Association; National Incarceration Association; Progressive National Baptist Convention; Returning Home; Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference; Society of St. Vincent de Paul; Sojourners; The Episcopal Church; The Sentencing Project; U.S. Conference of Mayors; U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Valor Village Foundation; Wesleyan Church.

US Chamber of Commerce; Business Roundtable; National Retail Federation; The Associated General Contractors of America; Associated Builders & Contractors; National Association of Homebuilders; National Electrical Contractors Association; Job Creators Network; National Restaurant Association; Asian American Hotel Owners Association; Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council; National Association of Broadcasters; Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association; National Grocers Association; International Franchise Association; U.S. Black Chamber of Commerce.

Justice Action Network; (Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers; National Association of Home Builders; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Arizona Free Enterprise Club; Connie Wilhelm, CEO, Home Builders Association of Central Arizona; Don Finkel, CEO, American OEM; Gene Barr, President & CEO, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry; Guy Ciarrocchi, President, Chester County Chamber; Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program; Kansas Chamber of Commerce; Kevin Schmidt, Executive Director, Ohio Cast Metals Association; Lincoln Trail Home Builders; Louisiana Association of Business and Industry; Matt Smith, President, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce; Michigan Association for Community Corrections Advancement; Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce; National Football League; FOX; US Travel Association; Realtors; The GEO Group, Inc.; National Association of Manufacturers.

Mr. GRASSLEY. This was a combined effort, one on a scale not often seen in Washington these days. I am grateful for everyone's work to bring about these historic reforms. Together, we have taken steps to reduce crime and recidivism, to strengthen faith and fairness in the criminal justice system, and to signal to those willing to make amends that redemption is within their reach. Together, we have taken an important step to live up to the commitment we make every time we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States: to provide liberty and justice for all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, let me first say how grateful I am to Senator GRASSLEY for his friendship, No. 1., and his leadership, No. 2. It has been one of the highlights of my Senate experience to work with him on this bill. We trust one another. It reached a point where he said: I am not going to make a big decision unless you tell me it is all right, and I hope you will feel the same way when it comes to decisions affecting me. And I did, and it

paid off because we came to trust one another. We worked together to reach a point last night where we passed a bill which I think will be judged in a positive way in the history of our country.

I might add that Senator MIKE LEE of Utah was an early ally in this effort, but our team wasn't putting together a winning record until CHUCK GRASSLEY joined the squad—not only joined it but led it. Then we brought in CORY BOOKER, who was a valuable spokesperson and ally when it came to bringing groups together on the left and in the center to achieve this bill. Last night, the four of us celebrated a victory. But the victory was not ours; it was a victory for the American people and for those who want to make sure we have a just system when it comes to criminal law and prison terms that follow from those convicted.

For those three Senators who joined me, I can't thank you enough. I really hope we can get the band back together sometime for another issue. Maybe it is the second step. Whatever it is, I would like to continue to work with this group and expand it to those who would like to be part of our effort.

I think we showed something last night that most American people wouldn't believe: that a bipartisan group of Senators from across the political spectrum could tackle one of the toughest political issues of our day; assemble an array of support—left, right, and center—from Members of the Senate, as well as organizations devoted to law enforcement and civil rights; and at the end of it, have something we all felt was a fair product to send over to the House, which I hope will act on this very quickly.

I will say a few words about how we reached that point in a moment, but I want to take time now, as Senator GRASSLEY has, to honor the staff of my office, who have done such an exceptional job to bring us to this moment.

Joe Zogby. Joe has been my chief counsel for several years now. For 6 years, he has worked tirelessly to get this legislation through the Senate—and I mean tirelessly. He fielded calls to negotiate the provisions of this bill at the same time he was coaching his sons in baseball and trying to take care of his family responsibility. Joe was available every hour of the day and night.

A special word of thanks to his wife, Lamece Baligh, and their sons, James, Elias, and Luke. I want to apologize to them for taking their dad away so many times for lengthy conversations, but we would never have reached success last night without that input from their father and husband.

This win would not have happened without the dogged determination of Joe Zogby. He is a rabid Phillies fan, so he is always looking forward to the next season and the next victory. Last night, finally, we won the World Series and passed this bill on the floor of the Senate.

No matter what assignment I give to Joe Zogby, whether it is the most technical, difficult, and challenging immigration issues or coming up with a new system of criminal justice or improvements to our system criminal justice, he always rises to the occasion. I am truly blessed to have him as my chief counsel. I may get the headlines, but, believe me, Joe Zogby deserves the credit.

By his side was Rachel Rossi. Rachel is a detailee to our office. She comes from the public defender's office. She told me this morning that they had warned her ahead of time this was probably going to be a pretty lackluster and boring experience, and nothing serious was going to be considered or passed during the time she was a detailee. Well, quite the opposite was true. She was here to be an integral part of the construction of this legislation and its passage. She is leaving as detailee at the end of the year, and I am going to miss her. While she will be missed, she is leaving our office on the highest possible note.

Rachel, I wish you the best. You were an important part of the legislation that passed last night.

Stephanie Trifone is our office counsel. She is involved in every issue that goes through the Senate Judiciary Committee. She played a supporting role to ensure that the bill was properly written and fielded countless calls and emails to keep our Senate staff and other staff well informed. She has been a steady hand, and we needed her every step of the way.

The rest of my team has its own assignments. Some of them worked tangentially on this bill, but I really couldn't function without Dan Swanson. He takes another agenda in the Senate Judiciary Committee, primarily on the civil side, and there is none better. There are times when people who were so-called experts would visit my office and say: Where does this Swanson learn all of these issues in such detail?

Well, he is a pretty bright guy, and I am lucky to have him. His day in the hot seat will soon come when we face another issue.

Debu Gandhi is an associate counsel. He is relatively new compared to the others, but I like his style and his determination. I have never asked anything of him that he hasn't produced the very best quality project in a timely way.

Manpreet Kaur Teji is the legislative correspondent who has to field all of the mail when I get up and give speeches that either make people happy or angry. I thank her for her commitment to our office.

I want to say a word about my floor staff. Reema Dodin has been with me since she was an intern in my office in Chicago. She went on to graduate law school and came to join my staff and eventually became my floor director. I didn't realize how much she was studying Senate procedure, but she has real-

ly become a valuable asset, not just to my office but to the Senate when we consider the options under the Senate rules.

Having been parliamentarian in the Illinois State Senate for 10 or 12 years, I can tell you that those who work in the parliamentarian's office, as well as those in support staff who are interested in Senate procedure, are absolutely essential to the successful consideration of important bills. Reema is in a unique position of helping to maneuver and whip the bill on both the Democratic and Republican sides of the aisle. She certainly did her job last night with 87 votes in favor of our legislation.

MJ Kenny is by her side. He is the deputy floor director. He was always in the cloakroom and always on the floor to ensure the FIRST STEP Act had a fair shot of consideration and passage. MJ and Reema are an incredible floor team. I am lucky to have them, and I thank them both.

Corey Tellez is my legislative director. She ensured that all of the staff worked together to finalize the bill. She kept our office and other offices well informed every step of the way.

Emily Hampsten, my communications director, has been sending out messages from my office on a bipartisan basis from the beginning. She is always there with a smile and does professional work, and I thank her so much for her work.

Claire Reuschel is my director of scheduling. She controls my life more than anyone other than my wife. She sends me places when she thinks it is right, and she usually has good judgment in those decisions. She has navigated thousands of meetings and phone calls on this legislation and so many other things. To say that she is an important part of this process is a gross understatement.

Finally, Pat Souders is my chief of staff. He has been with me from the beginning. He started off in the House and now has assembled, I think, the best team on Capitol Hill. I thank him for not only finding these talented people but making sure that they get along with one another and that in their cooperation we can serve the people of Illinois first and the Nation in the most effective way. I couldn't do it without Pat Souders.

Let me say that this moment in history arrived because we had an idea that was due; it is an idea whose time was due. It was due for a number of reasons.

Thirty years ago, in the war on drugs, we were so frightened by crack cocaine that as a House Member, I ended up casting what I considered one of the worst votes in my career. I voted for the 100-to-1 crack to powder disparity in sentencing. It meant what it said: You would get 100 times the penalty for the same amount of crack cocaine as you would have in powder cocaine—the same narcotic, different form, dramatically different results.

We tried this in an effort to scare America straight, to let them know we were serious. We would get tough and use all of the political muscle we could find to stop the spread of crack cocaine. It was cheap. It was easily produced. It was deadly, especially to the fetus being carried by the addicted mother, and it scared us. I voted for that bill and have regretted it ever since.

I know what happened; it didn't work. You couldn't scare people straight. We ended up with more people addicted. The price of drugs on the street went down, and we started filling our prisons, primarily with African-American and Latinos inmates who were convicted under these crimes. We knew in our heart of hearts that like so many other laws, it was unfair. The majority—majority—of users of narcotics and dealers of narcotics are White. Seventy-five percent of those who are convicted and sent to prison for crimes related to drug dealing and use are African American and Latino.

This disparity on its face tells us that our system was fundamentally unfair and ineffective. I believe that is the reason we decided last night to stop trying to muscle our way through the drug war and start using our brains: What is it that will work, that will make certain those who are truly guilty pay a price and those who can be rehabilitated get that chance? It is as basic as that.

There is a second thing that has happened in America in recent years, and it is heartbreaking when you see the results. We are facing the worst drug epidemic in our history. For the first time in decades—maybe in modern memory—we are being told that life expectancy in the United States is going down. It is because of the opioid drug epidemic. Thousands of people are dying because of overdoses of opioids, heroin, and fentanyl.

The opioid epidemic has opened our eyes to something else. Narcotics and their problems are not confined to the inner city. They are not confined to people of color, and they are not confined to the poor. This opioid epidemic has touched every corner of America in every State. There is no suburb too wealthy, no town so small that it can avoid this opioid epidemic. What it has done, sadly, is educate all of us in what happens with addiction and what we need to do to fight it.

We now look at drug addiction not as a moral curse but, rather, as a disease that needs to be treated. That doesn't mean we should give up on prosecuting kingpins and doing everything we can to stop the flow of narcotics, but we have come to realize that just sticking someone in jail, if they lived long enough to reach that point in their lives, is no guarantee they are going to come out of jail without that addiction. We have to be thoughtful.

We also have to have rehabilitation that is available for people across the board, whether they are rich or poor.

That is something our opioid legislation of several weeks ago moves toward solving.

The other thing we have come to understand is, the cost of the current system is unsustainable. We cannot continue to fill our prisons at great expense and not put money into things that count in terms of protecting our communities. Arresting someone after the crime is, of course, part of a just society, but it doesn't stop that original crime from happening. We have to think about the crime prevention that makes our homes and neighborhoods and towns and cities safe all across America, and that was part of the calculation last night in this embarkation on a new approach.

Finally, I want to say that virtually every major issue that passes on the floor of the U.S. Senate—virtually every single one of them—has someone backing it, pushing for it with a personal passion on the issue. I feel—not personally but having visited so many prisons and worked with so many people who have served time in those prisons—that we need to have a more just system, a more effective system.

I want to give credit where it is due. Jared Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law, spoke to me about his feelings on prison reform the first time we ever met. I know it is personal to him, and I know it means a lot to him and his family. Because he cared and because he mobilized the conservative side of the political equation, we had an amazing vote last night with 87 Members of the Senate supporting the bill. All of the Democrats and then, on top of that, 39 of the Republicans were also supportive of the bill. I might add, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM was absent. Now that he is back from Afghanistan, he told us he would have made it 88 if he were here.

I will close by saying thank you again to Senator GRASSLEY. Thanks to Aaron Cummings. I thanked him personally last night. He worked so closely with Joe Zogby and with Rachel Rossi during the course of this; they really became a team. I think it was one of the reasons we closed this deal and sent it to the House. It is, however, the first step. We have to start thinking about the second step, and we need the help of all of our colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I thank Senator DURBIN for his kind remarks—more importantly, for 3 years of working together on this legislation, and it is great that it paid off.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I come to the floor to speak about the work of the Senate on victims' rights and child protection measures and also to highlight the work of Evelyn Fortier, staff member, who has carried

such a big burden in these areas of victims' rights and child protection.

During my tenure as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have made it a top priority to champion bipartisan initiatives to enhance victims' rights and to protect our Nation's at-risk children. In the 115th Congress, as an example, I introduced and led the Senate in approving multiple bills to prevent crime, identify missing children, enhance services to crime victims, and reform our juvenile justice system.

I am proud of what we have achieved on the Judiciary Committee during this period of time, as we sent a half dozen of the measures I just described to the President's desk after both Chambers passed them, surprisingly, on a unanimous basis. For example, last October, we passed, and the President signed, the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act. This measure, which I sponsored with Senator BLUMENTHAL, increases penalties for the fraudsters who target our senior citizens. It requires Federal agencies to collect more data on financial exploitation of the elderly, which is, of course, a terribly underreported crime. It also calls for specialized training of Federal investigators and prosecutors who handle these cases.

The second measure, which I introduced and the President signed last January, is Kevin and Avonte's Law. This new law is named in honor of two boys with autism who tragically died after wandering away from their caregiver. It calls for the Justice Department to award grants to equip school personnel, caregivers, and first responders with training to help identify missing persons with autism or Alzheimer's disease. It also permits grant funds to be used for technologies that advance the search for missing children with developmental disabilities.

This legislation is important because research suggests that at least one-third of the children with autism repeatedly wander away from safety. Since 2015, we have seen a doubling in the number of wandering-related deaths, according to SafeMinds, a non-profit organization that advocates for these children.

I thank Senators SCHUMER, TILLIS, and KLOBUCHAR for joining as cosponsors of Kevin and Avonte's Law.

Third, I introduced, and both Chambers this week cleared, legislation to extend the important victim services programs that the Trafficking Victim Protection Act established.

I led our Judiciary Committee in clearing this measure and a complementary bill introduced by Senator CORNYN. Our bills, which were cosponsored by Senators Feinstein and Klobuchar, soon will go to the President's desk for signatures.

Both measures will help us to combat modern human slavery which, unfortunately, is alive and well today in this country. It exists in the form of sex